

## DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN GEORGIA

### THE PROBLEM

#### In Georgia

- 72,682 calls were made to domestic violence crisis lines in 2002.
- Georgia certified family violence programs provided shelter for 3,932 adults and 3,920 children in 2002.
- The Georgia Bureau of Investigation reports that law enforcement officers responded to 47,802 family violence incidents in 2001.

#### Nationwide

- April 2003, CDC reported that health related costs of intimate partner violence exceeded \$5.8 billion each year in the United States.
- Intimate partners murdered 1,247 women in 2000. On average more than three women are murdered by their husbands or boyfriends in the U.S. every day.
- Half of the men who frequently assault their wives also abuse their children. Experts suggest that domestic violence may be a major factor leading to child abuse and neglect deaths.

### THE RESOURCES

- Georgia has 43 certified family violence shelters, operated by private, nonprofit organizations. They provide 24-hour crisis lines; legal and social service advocacy; children's programs; parenting support and education; emotional support; and community education. All of these agencies also offer emergency safe shelters. All services are free and confidential.
- In 2002, two communities established new services for victims of family violence. These programs are in Tifton and Vidalia.
- A statewide toll-free 24-hour crisis line: 1-800-33-HAVEN (334-2836) will automatically connect the caller to the nearest family violence agency.
- In FY 2002, the budget for family violence programs was \$9,218,058 (\$3,563,360 state and \$5,654,698 federal funds).
- All county DFCS offices have domestic violence assessors who assist DFCS staff to identify and provide services to domestic violence victims receiving or applying for TANF (welfare).